

From: [Jeff Finkle, CEcD via LinkedIn](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
Subject: Another Opportunity to Join Us
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 8:55:09 AM



Jeff Finkle, CEcD

President, International Economic Development Council www.iedconline.org

Creativity and innovation: pillars of success in economic development, and, one of our goals for the International Economic Development Council's 2015 Annual Conference Program. As the conference draws near, we're eager to share one-of-a-kind events that will only take place in Anchorage, Alaska this October 4-7!
<http://www.iedcevents.org/AnnualConference/index.html>

Before I share more, I want to make sure that you got the email from our Chair JoAnn Crary on what IEDC is undertaking. We are very pleased to report on a number of tremendous activities. I am providing the non-member version as this goes into more detail as to the activities of IEDC. <http://tinyurl.com/orpda9l>

At our conference we will be addressing some serious issues in the economic development field. 1) As we have recovered from the ravaging effects of the recession the recovery has been inconsistent for certain places and certain populations, what role do economic developers play in resolving these inequities? 2) As the nature of site selection by businesses has changed, what role do economic developers play and how does the IEDC site selection standards apply and what does IEDC do, working with the site selection industry, to update these standards? 3) With workforce amounting to one of the top issues facing economic developers and the businesses that they are working with, how do we work with our WIBs, community colleges and universities and other workforce providers to be more responsive to local economic development needs? And there is much more <http://www.iedcevents.org/AnnualConference/Program.html>

Let us change the tone from serious to fun.

I hope you have heard of the Iditarod? Martin Buser, a four-time Iditarod champion, will be one of our keynoters. www.buserdog.com

Tours, lots of tours. Join us as we explore the Port of Anchorage, a deep-water port that unloads an estimated 90% of merchandise goods for nearly every Alaskan community. Also, join the neighborhood revitalization project from the Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA). CIHA's Mountain View Village serves the families and individuals by providing housing programs that empower and aid in their transition toward self-sufficiency. www.iedcevents.org/AnnualConference/Special_Events.html

Speaking of awards, IEDC is thrilled to showcase the world's most innovative economic development programs, partnerships, projects, and exciting new media and marketing materials. Winners will be announced live at the conference on Tuesday, October 6th. Take a look at our past award winners – they'll knock your socks off!
<http://tinyurl.com/IEDC-award-winners>

More and more often, I'm inspired by my colleagues who take their unique ideas and churn out exciting, tangible results for the communities that they serve. You won't want to miss the Recognition Dinner, Monday, October 5th, as we honor the leaders who have contributed to economic development in immeasurable ways. There, we will present the awards for Citizen Leadership, Young Economic Development Professional, Lifetime Achievement and more...

Two non-conference related thoughts

BALLE (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) provides a fellowship for visionary local economy leaders and funders to connect, build their capacity, and innovate. BALLE is currently recruiting top North American leaders for the 2016 Local Economy Fellowship cohort and seeks applicants who have been at the forefront of place-based business and economic development. If you are interested follow this link <https://bealocalist.org/balle-local-economy-fellowship>

All this talk on creativity has me itching to reread Richard Florida's updated classic, *The Rise of the Creative Class—Revisited*. Explore the rise of creativity as an economic driver and its transformative effects on our economy and culture. Take a gander in our bookstore: www.tinyurl.com/IEDC-bookstore-creativity

Cheers,

Jeff Finkle, CEcD

Ps Two final thoughts

1. If you are interested in listening to what I have been playing on my computer, here is Alaska promotion music. <http://www.iedcevents.org/AnnualConference/Adventure.html>
There is also information on a great Saturday tour.
2. If you are not a member of IEDC, can we entice you to join? <http://tinyurl.com/Join-IEDC>

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